Indo-Myanmar Pipeline Project

2190. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI LALIT SURI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bangladesh has cleared a pipeline through its territorial area for transporting gas to India from Myanmar where ONGC and GAIL have stakes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the transit fee that India has to pay to Bangladesh for laying the pipeline in transporting gas through this pipeline?

* THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) GAIL (India) Ltd., (GAIL) and ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) are consortium partners with Daewoo International and Kagos of South Korea in Offshore Block A-1 in Myanmar, where commercial gas has been discovered in January, 2004. However, the block is still under exploration stage and extractable reserves have not been established. For transporting the natural gas from Myanmar there are multiple options, including an onland pipeline transiting through Bangladesh.

(b) The options are being considered and the Government of Bangladesh will be approached in due course, if required

(c) Does not arise.

Welfare Schemes of IOC for SCs/STs/OBCs

2191. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sanctioned for taking up welfare schemes for the benefit of SCs and STs and other Backward Classes by the Indian Oil Corporation in Karnataka during 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04,

(b) the details of the schemes taken up and the amount spent during the above period;

(c) whether there is any proposal to enhance the amount during 2004-05 for these activities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) There are no welfare schemes exclusively for Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) categories. However, India Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) annually undertakes certain schemes under Community Development Programmes, including monthly scholarships to the students of Engineering, Medical, Management and 10+ITI for the benefit of general population including poor, backward classes, SCs and STs. The amount sanctioned for Karnataka State under Community Development Schemes for the period, in question, is as under:–

(Rupees in lakhs)

Year	Total amount sanctioned
2001-02	02.85
2002-03	04.21
2003-04	02.76

(b) The details of the schemes taken up and the amount spent during the period is given at Statement (*see* below).

(c) and (d) The amount planned under Community Development Programmes for expenditure during 2004-05 is Rs. 9.06 lakhs in the State of Karnataka.

Statement

Details of the Scheme/monthly scholarships to students

S. No.	Year	Name of Scheme	Amount spent (Rupees in Lakhs)
1.		(I) Financial assistance for open well for drinking water at Kangala village, Belgaum, Karnataka	1.25*
	2001-02	(ii) Financial assistance to Sarkari Hindu Primary School, Vadgaon, Belgaum, Karnataka	1.48**
		(iii) Monthly scholarships to Engineering, Medical and Management students	0.12
2	2002-03	(i) Donation of Mahindra Jeep Ambulance to Sri Abhinava Vidyatheertha Mahaswamigal Peetarochanam Silver Jubilee Commemoration (SAVMPSJC) Medical Foundation, Sringeri, Chikmanglur, Karnataka	4.09***

Sl. No	Year	Name of Scheme	Amount spent (Rupees in Lakhs)
		(ii) Monthly scholarships to Engineering, Medical and Management students	0.12
3	2003-04	(i) Monthly scholarships to Engineering, Medical, Management and 10+ITI students.	2 76

* Population of village consists of approximately 30% of SC/ST category

** Strength of School consists of approximately 40% of SC/ST/OBC category

*** Details of SC/ST/OBC population not available. However, the facility is being utilized by poor patients of rural areas residing in Sringeri and the far flung hilly terrains of Malnad villages in Chikmanglur District of Karnataka.

Strategic oil reserves

2192. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to build strategic oil reserves aimed at ensuring energy security for the country;

(b) whether Government are considering other options also like securing more oil equity overseas; and

(c) whether a Group of Ministers on Integrated Energy Policy is weighing alternate options and if so, the terms of reference?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) It has been decided to build strategic storage of crude oil of 5 million metric tonne (MMT) capacity. This storage would be in addition to the existing storage of crude oil and petroleum products with the oil companies and would provide emergency response mechanism to oil supply disruptions.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government has set up a committee under the Chairmanship of Minister of Power and with Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas as Co-Chairman to address issues relating to Energy Policy. The Committee would go into short, medium and long-term policies and review such policies ranging across sectors, fuels and regions to enhance the country's energy security.